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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/506,500	09/03/2004	Oliver Okrongli		2839

7590

11/01/2006

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EXAMINER

KENDALL, CHUCK O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2192

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/506,500

Applicant(s)

OKRONGLI, OLIVER

Examiner

Chuck O. Kendall

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09/03/04 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to application filed 09/03/04.
2. Claims 1 – 12 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 – 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thomsen et al. USPN 5,987,246.

Regarding claims 1 and 12, method for machine-executable information processing, representing information in a hierarchical data structure consisting of at least two hierarchy levels, where the structural configuration can be modeled by input means and the contents of an element can either

- a) be manipulated by input means (4:27 – 35); or
- b) be determined by machine-evaluating an expression, which can be manipulated by input means, said expression being able to contain a reference to at least one other element (4:33 – 37, see machine language).

Regarding claim 2, method according to claim 1, wherein a set of pre-built sub-structures are provided by the system (9:25 – 30, see predefined inputs).

Regarding claim 3, method according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein modeling is carried out in an object-oriented way, particularly involving classes (6:33 – 37).

Regarding claim 4, method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein parameters for the elements' representation and editing modes are manipulatable by input means (4:25 – 35).

Regarding claim 5, method according to claim 4, wherein multiple sets of parameters may exist per element with one of said parameters sets becoming effectual depending on the results of manipulatable expressions (2:45 – 55).

Regarding claim 6, method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein all information, including meta information, is stored persistently, particularly in an object-oriented or relational database (5:15 – 20, see data acquisition and store).

Regarding claim 7, method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the expression evaluation is carried out in an optimized way by

a) marking the result of an expression invalid if, and only if the expression was modified or the contents of an element referenced by the expression were modified or became invalid (10:7 – 12) and

b) updating the result on an expression not until it is needed for representation or in the course of computing another result (4:53 – 57, see resultant icons and editor).

Regarding claim 8, method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the system architecture allows for a distribution of functions, which enables separate processing for:

a) visualization and editing of information and meta information (FIG.1, 30 see diagram editor);

b) serving information and meta information, in particular for purposes of visualization and editing or for input and output directed at external system (FIG. 7, see configuration and type information);

c) parallel evaluation of expressions by means of any number of processors (8:27 – 33).

Regarding claim 9, method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the expression evaluation can be extended with external (user-defined) functions (5:60 – 6:10).

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Regarding claim 10, method according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein upon request an external process is notified about changes or invalidations of selectable structure components (6:25 – 30, see receive signals).

Regarding claim 11, software product containing components, which execute in conjunction with hardware a method according to any one of claims 1 to 10 (4:18 – 22, hardware components).

Correspondence information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuck Kendall whose telephone number is 571-272-3698. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00 am - 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ck.

Chinese Kendall 10/30/06